



MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM RESEARCH AND ECONOMICS DIVISION
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SEPTEMBER TONNAGE CONTINUES "UPWARD CREEP"

In September, 1982, the ATA tonnage index was 133.9, a climb of one and one-tenth index points from the revised August level. This continues to reflect the slow, though apparently very steady, upward movement that has been seen since the beginning of 1982. The actual tons reported by motor carriers in the ATA survey climbed from 7.58 million in August to over 8.18 million in September. However, the standard adjustments for variations due to the season and the number of working/trading days reduced this apparent volume surge to just one-tenth of one percent.

The preliminary September index of 133.9 (on a 1967=100 base) reflects an 8.2 percent year-to-year decline. This compares favorably with the annual rates of decline of 14% to 15% which were observed earlier this year. It also indicates that at least some degree of normal "seasonality" has returned to the trucking industry -- a phenomenon that was missing last year.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) Research & Statistical Services Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-third of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influences and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historical index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short-term non-significant movements in the series.

Cumulative tonnage for the first nine months of 1982 decreased 13.3 percent from the same period in 1981.

p - preliminary

r - revised

f - final

INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER
1967 = 100

	<u>Sept.</u> <u>1982</u>	<u>Aug.</u> <u>1982</u>	<u>July</u> <u>1982</u>	<u>Sept.</u> <u>1981</u>	<u>Monthly</u> <u>% Change</u>		<u>Yearly</u> <u>% Change</u>
					<u>8/82</u> <u>7/82</u>	<u>9/82</u> <u>8/82</u>	
Tonnage Index (adjusted) ¹	133.9p	133.8r	132.1f	145.8f	+1.3	+0.1	- 8.2
Tonnage Index (unadjusted) ²	139.9p	129.7r	122.4f	153.2f	+6.0	+7.9	- 8.7
Industrial Production Index ²							
(total)	137.3	138.1	138.7	151.6	-0.4	-0.6	- 9.4
Manufacturers (total)	136.9	137.7	138.2	151.1	-0.4	-0.6	- 9.4
Non-durable	157.4	156.9	155.9	165.9	+0.6	+0.3	- 5.1
Durable	122.8	124.3	125.9	140.9	-1.3	-1.2	-12.9
Retail Store Sales Index ²	366.5	362.8	364.9	359.7	-0.6	+1.0	+ 1.9
(adjusted)							
Producer Price Index ³	284.1	282.4	281.7	271.5	+0.3	+0.6	+ 4.6
(unadjusted)							
Consumer Price Index ⁴	293.3	292.8	292.2	279.3	+0.2	+0.2	+ 5.0
(unadjusted)							
Tonnage Reported by <u>212</u>							
Carriers in _____	8,184	7,582	n.a.	9,011	n.a.	+7.9	- 9.2
(000 tons)							

p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable

1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days

2 - Seasonally adjusted

3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index)

4 - Goods and services

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX -- HISTORICAL -- 1967 = 100

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u> [*]
January	159.3	163.2	191.0	161.5	151.2	127.9
February	162.8	174.1	198.6	156.6	151.9	131.8
March	162.4	176.0	202.2	157.5	150.6	128.0
April	166.4	191.8	144.7	150.3	153.3	131.4
May	164.8	182.1	188.0	142.7	153.6	132.9
June	166.5	181.1	188.2	141.5	153.4	132.9
July	168.3	178.0	186.1	135.6	153.3	132.1
August	169.1	183.8	177.4	143.5	151.1	133.8r
September	168.6	184.3	175.7	147.3	145.8	133.9p
October	166.9	189.0	172.8	147.3	139.7	
November	166.1	186.6	170.5	149.7	134.9	
December	170.1	189.6	167.7	151.1	126.2	

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
1981	151.4	151.2	151.9	152.5	153.4	153.4	152.6	150.1	145.5	140.1	133.6	129.7
1982	128.6	129.2	130.4	130.8	132.4	132.6	132.9r	133.3p				

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.